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Nixon's Strategy

During the last presidential campaign, John F. Kennedy called for vigorous action against Castro. He did so, according to Richard M. Nixon, despite a confidential briefing that plans to that effect were already in the works. Mr. Nixon, reviewing the incident in his forthcoming book, in effect cries "foul!"

The White House has replied that Mr. Kennedy was not briefed on those plans. Former CIA Director Allen Dulles says the White House is correct.

But what lingers as an intriguing aspect of Mr. Nixon's story is his reaction at the time to the suspected breach of confidence by his opponent.

"The covert operation had to be protected at all costs," Mr. Nixon writes. So he went to "the other extreme" and attacked the Kennedy proposal as "dangerously irresponsible."

Aside from speculating on the marvels of Mr. Nixon's mental and political agility, one especially wonders how he'd have explained himself if he had been elected President--committed and willing to execute the Cuba plan that he had denounced as "dangerously irresponsible" during the campaign.